

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/275,527

Examiner

Dwin M Craig

Applicant(s)

KARCHMER ET AL.

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2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8-3-2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5-7,9-13 and 16-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3-24-1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

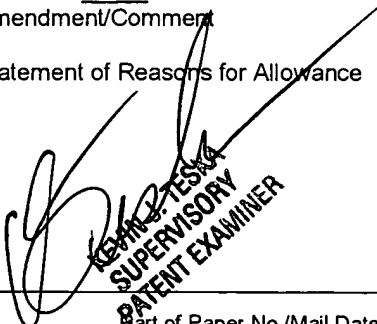
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN E. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

And

Notice of Allowance

1. **Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10-13 and 16-28** are allowed.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 8-3-2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent Number 6,697,773 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3.1 Independent Claims 1 and 7 are non-obvious over the prior art. The following limitations, in combination with the other limitations are non-obvious improvements over the prior art, "*condition computation is a binary value that evaluates to either TRUE or FALSE,*" in combination with "*an assignment decision node (ADN) that selects a value from a set of input values computed by the assignment value portion based upon the conditions computed by the assignment condition portion.*" In view with Applicant's arguments and the instant amendments the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious, the annotation of an Assignment Decision Diagram as disclosed and defined and claimed by Applicant's current claim language and specification. Further, the method of creating the structure of the Assignment Decision

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Diagram and then annotating that diagram with Assignment Decision Nodes and then selecting a value from a set of input values based on the evaluation of a data flow path, is a non-obvious structural improvement over the previous methods of using an ADD to manipulate a behavioral model during circuit simulation. Further, an updated search of the PTO Patent database, ACM, Google and IEEE have failed to disclose any new prior art references that anticipate or makes obvious the claimed limitations as disclosed in the instant amendments.

3.2 Dependent Claims 5, 6 and 9 are allowed as they depend upon an allowed base claim.

3.3 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

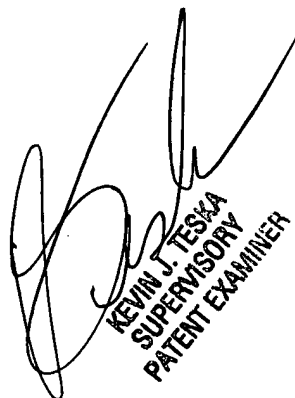
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwin M Craig whose telephone number is (571) 272-3710. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska can be reached on (571)272-3716. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DMC



KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER